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Response to Official Action
Dated 6 November 2006
Re: USSN 10/829,309
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Please amend the following paragraph of the specification in the manner indicated:

[0023] The database 11 can be implemented in a relational database or an object database. Contrary to the conventional transaction records, the transaction records 111 are partitioned according to the definition of time scale with each weighted record 112 belonging to a partition. Thus, the partition identity field is used to identify each transaction record 111 and weighted record 112. The implementation of both transaction records 111 and weighted records 112 described above is not limited to a single table, but also to multiple related tables. A transaction record 111 preferably comprises three fields, partition identity, transaction identity, and items, the transaction identity field being a primary key used to identify the record, the items field storing at least one transaction object. The weighted record 112 stores the information of time scale and the weighted value corresponding to each partition, preferably comprising partition identity, time scale, and weight fields. The itemset records 113 store the results of the association mining, both temporary and final, preferably comprising itemset, initiated initiate partition, and correlation value fields. Consistent with the scope and spirit of the invention, additional or different fields may be provided.

[0028] FIG. 4 is a diagram of exemplary P.sub.1 partition transactions according to the invention. In phase 1, the association analysis unit 13 reads 4 transactions of the partition P1 as shown in FIG. 3, subsequently generates 2-itemsets {AD,BC,BD,CD} as shown in FIG. 4, calculates the

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Replacement Sheet

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Candidate Flag	2-Itemset	Initiated Partition	Weighted Frequency
0	AD	P1	$1*0.5=0.5$
0	BC	P1	$2*0.5=1$
0	BD	P1	$2*0.5=1$
	CD	P1	$1*0.5=0.5$

FIG. 4

Candidate Flag	2-Itemset	Initiated Partition	Weighted Frequency
0	AB	P2	$1*1=1$
0	AC	P2	$1*1=1$
0	BC	P1	$1+2*1=3$
0	BD	P1	$1+0*1=1$
0	BE	P2	$1*1=1$
0	CD	P2	$1*1=1$
0	CE	P2	$2*1=2$
0	DE	P2	$2*1=2$

FIG. 5